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Claims 1-16 cancelled.

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17. (Twice Amended) A process for mechanical chemical polishing in the integrated circuits industry, comprising

rubbing a layer with a support impregnated with an abrasive liquid composition, wherein

said layer is (1) a material selected from the group consisting of silicon oxide, silicon nitride, and a polymer having a low dielectric constant, or (2) one layer of silicon oxide and another layer of silicon nitride, and

said abrasive liquid composition comprises an aqueous acid suspension of

(i) individualized colloidal silica particles not linked to each other by siloxane bonds,

together with (ii) a surfactant, and

wherein said abrasive liquid composition is at a pH of 1-5.

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--18. (New) The process of claim 17, wherein said surfactant is an anionic or non-ionic surfactant.

--19. (New) The process of claim 18, wherein said surfactant is anionic.

20. (amended) The process of claim 19, wherein said rubbing is carried out with said individualized colloidal silica particles which have diameters between 12 nm and 100 nm.

21. (amended) The process of claim 18, wherein said rubbing is carried out with said individualized colloidal silica particles which have diameters between 12 nm and 100 nm.

22. (amended) The process of claim 17, wherein said rubbing is carried out with said individualized colloidal silica particles which have diameters between 12 nm and 100 nm.

--23. (New) The process of claim 22, wherein said pH is between 2 and 3, and  
said particle size is between 35 and 50 nm.

--24. (New) The process of claim 21, wherein said pH is between 2 and 3, and  
said particle size is between 35 and 50 nm.

--25. (New) The process of claim 20, wherein said pH is between 2 and 3, and  
said particle size is between 35 and 50 nm.

--26. (New) The process of claim 25, wherein the concentration by weight of said individualized colloidal silica particles is between 25 and 35 % in said aqueous acid suspension.

--27. (New) The process of claim 24, wherein the concentration by weight of said individualized colloidal silica particles is between 25 and 35 % in said aqueous acid suspension.

--28. (New) The process of claim 23, wherein the concentration by weight of said individualized colloidal silica particles is between 25 and 35 % in said aqueous acid suspension.

--29. (New) The process of claim 22, wherein the concentration by weight of said individualized colloidal silica particles is between 25 and 35 % in said aqueous acid suspension.

--30. (New) The process of claim 21, wherein the concentration by weight of said individualized colloidal silica particles is between 25 and 35 % in said aqueous acid suspension.

--31. (New) The process of claim 18 wherein the volumetric concentration of said surfactant is between 0.001% and 5%.

--32. (New) The process of claim 20 wherein the volumetric concentration of said surfactant is between 0.001% and 5%.

--33. (New) The process of claim 25 wherein the volumetric concentration of said surfactant is between 0.001% and 5%.

--34. (New) The process of claim 18, wherein the volumetric concentration of said surfactant is between 0.01% and 1%.

--35. (New) The process of claim 22, wherein the volumetric concentration of said surfactant is between 0.01% and 1%.

--36. (New) The process of claim 26, wherein the volumetric concentration of said surfactant is between 0.01% and 1%.--

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37. (new) A process for mechanical chemical polishing in the integrated circuits industry, comprising rubbing a layer with a support impregnated with an abrasive liquid composition, wherein

    said layer is (1) a material selected from the group consisting of silicon oxide, silicon nitride, and a polymer having a low dielectric constant, or (2) one layer of silicon oxide and another layer of silicon nitride, and

    said abrasive liquid composition consists essentially of an aqueous acid suspension of

        (i) individualized colloidal silica particles not linked to each other by siloxane bonds,

        together with (ii) a surfactant, and

    wherein said abrasive liquid composition is at a pH of 1-5.

38. (new) The process of claim 37, wherein said surfactant is an anionic or non-ionic surfactant.

39. (new) The process of claim 37, wherein the pH is between 2 and 3.

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40. (new) A process for mechanical chemical polishing in the integrated circuits industry, comprising rubbing a layer with a support impregnated with an abrasive liquid composition, wherein

    said layer comprises one layer of silicon oxide and another layer of silicon nitride, and

    said abrasive liquid composition is an aqueous acid suspension, having a pH of 1-5, of

        (i) individualized colloidal silica particles not linked to each other by siloxane bonds,

        together with (ii) a surfactant,

    wherein said abrasive liquid composition is substantially free of other components.